

Freedom Fighters, in our Lord's eyes . . .
 Heroes like you Craig so come first . . .
 And if ever I have a son, I but hope and pray
 he could grow up to be like you fine
 one!
 A Strong Son of the South . . .

TRIBUTE TO MRS. RUBY BUTLER,
 BETTER KNOWN TO HER FAMILY
 AND FRIENDS AS "DEAR ME
 BUTLER"

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a wonderful woman who devoted most of her life to the well-being of her friends and family. Dear Me was born to the parentage of Offie and Lillie Floyd Pitts in Opelika, Alabama on January 23, 1926. The Pitts raised Dear Me and her siblings in Salem, Alabama. Dear Me attended Flint Hill School and changed her name to Ruby prior to beginning high school. Ruby was raised in a God-loving, God-fearing home and accepted Christ at an early age. She attended the Weeping Mary Baptist Church in Salem, Alabama.

Offie and Lillie Pitts moved their family to Knoxville, Tennessee in the late 1950's. Ruby worked as a domestic while in high school and married Frank Butler. They relocated north to Chicago and raised four children—Lucy, Charles, Juanita and Earl.

Ruby worked at various factories and plant jobs in Chicago, including W.F. Hall Printing Co. and retired from Goodwill Industries. Ruby was highly religious and was a member of the Greater Rock Church, was delighted to see Barack Obama elected president of the United States, and often prayed for him and his family and their safety.

Ruby loved children and made her real lifetime career caring for her own children and for the children of others. I am told by one of her

grandchildren, Ms. Wynona Redmond, that she had a tradition of giving members of her family monetary gifts that matched their age on birthdays and that she often thought and acted on behalf of others before considering herself, and that is one of the reasons she will always be "Dear Me" to all of those who knew her. We salute Mrs. Ruby Butler, Dear Me, for being an outstanding humanitarian with a big heart who was more concerned about others than for herself.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION
 REFORM FOR AMERICA'S SEC-
 URITY AND PROSPERITY ACT (CIR
 A.S.A.P.)

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, today we begin the process of transforming an immigration system which has undermined our economy and eroded America's moral standing.

For too long, Congress has sidestepped our mounting immigration challenges, but led by Congressman GUTIERREZ, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and its allies have devised bold, imaginative solutions to these problems.

In recent years, vast sums have been spent on new agents and infrastructure to secure a once porous border. But we know taller fences and stiffer penalties alone are incapable of mitigating the human toll our broken immigration system exacts every day.

The Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act (CIR A.S.A.P.) lays out a broad blueprint for correcting the deeply flawed immigration laws and policies that are the source of so much suffering.

The bill would establish a sensible path to legalization for undocumented immigrants, end the shortage of visas that continues to divide families and direct federal authorities to adopt

a more humane approach to immigration enforcement.

It also contains key provisions of the American Dream Act that I co-authored with Congressman BERMAN, which would enable young immigrants to attend college and contribute to the social and economic fabric of this nation.

These students should not be forced to defer their dreams and abandon their ambitions simply because they lack documentation. Indeed, we cannot afford to waste our investments in these talented, motivated young people—the products of our schools and our communities.

In addition, the legislation includes important language aimed at reforming our unjust immigration detention policies based on the Immigration Oversight and Fairness Act I introduced earlier this year.

On any given night, more than 30,000 immigrants go to sleep in detention centers across America. Included in their growing ranks are asylum seekers, torture survivors, children, pregnant women and the elderly. Our bill would strengthen and codify detention regulations, guaranteeing every detainee access to medical care and legal advice.

There are those who say we shouldn't pursue these sweeping changes at a time when our economy is stagnant and job losses are mounting. Yet it is precisely because American families are facing unprecedented economic hardships that addressing this issue is so critical. According to the CATO Institute, a conservative think tank, establishing a path to legalization will boost the annual income of American households by fully \$180 billion over the next ten years.

We have a moral obligation to pass the CIR A.S.A.P. Act for the asylum seeker denied due process, for the child separated from her parents and for the brave veteran whose spouse faces deportation. But we also desperately need this legislation to strengthen our economy, raise wages and ultimately ensure a brighter economic future for every American family.